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Farming Short Course Delegate

Chris Pickett of Beulaville will be the Duplin delegate to the Modern Farming Short Course at North Carolina State University in Raleigh Jan. 30 - Feb. 10. Tuition for the course is provided by all Duplin County banks. The short course will include seminars on crop science, poultry science, waste management, land-owner liability, a tour of the Veterinary School of Medicine, pesticide uses, meteorology, debt structure and repayment from a lender's point of view, bankruptcy,

income tax management, farm records and other related topics. Chris is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Pickett of Beulaville and he has an associate degree in animal science from James Sprunt Technical College. He currently farms with his father in Beulaville. Pictured above, left to right, Chris Pickett receives a check for the tuition cost of the farming short course from Thomas Murphy, key banker representing all Duplin banks. Murphy is vice-president of United Carolina Bank of Rose Hill.

Watson Seafood & Poultry CO. Equipment Auctioned

More than 100 people listened to the sing-song drawl of Kenneth Boyette Friday as he auctioned equipment that once belonged to Watson Seafood & Poultry Co.

In the feed mill yard, the auctioneer worked his way along the edge of a flatbed trailer, selling jack stands, tire rims and reels of wire. A light drizzle fell on the crows as Boyette crooned, "I got 27-50, do I hear 30? I got 30, do I hear 32 and a half? I got 32..."

Watson Seafood & Poultry Co. filed for bankruptcy in April 1983. The company's failure means an estimated loss of \$15 million a year to the area's economy.

At one time, 285,000 broilers were grown out under contract with about 120 farmers. Processing the chickens provided employment for a shift of 200 workers at the Rose Hill Poultry Corp.

A semi-trailer truck with two flat tires sat low in the yellow mud. The red and white chicken head, the Watson symbol, smiled cheerfully from the truck's side.

The auction began a little after 10 a.m. Friday, Boyette explained the

rules to potential bidders. "Everything is being sold as is, where is. When you bid, bid your pleasure."

Two garages housed the boxes of oil filters, brass fittings, wrenches and chains. Several pieces of scrap metal and a 16-foot auger leaned against a wall. Farmers ambled around the tables stacked with hand tools, batteries, micrometers and hydraulic presses.

Bargain hunters slowly cruised among the lawn mowers, tool chests, and steam cleaners. Taking notes on item numbers and conferring with friends, the bidders finally gathered around two flatbed trailers on which cables and hoses coiled like snakes.

Sometimes, two bidders determined not to lose to each other will actually end up paying more for an item than it costs, said Andrew Moore, a farmer from Ivanhoe. He came "to see what I can buy, what it brings. You learn a lot what people are paying for different items, what things are worth."

Others came to watch because the rain made their farm chores impossible. Some came to stock up on truck and car parts for their repair shops.

Squinting eyes peered from under the brims of caps marked TRW, Farm Bureau Insurance and Michelin, watching Boyette. Bidders raised fingers or whistled to up the price. A canvas tarp sold for \$37.50. Two jack stands sold for \$57.50 each.

Ebern Watson Jr., who ran the company, stood in one of the garages watching potential buyers fix up eighth-inch bolts, examine lengths of rusty chains and discuss the merits of a riding lawnmower.

"It would have been a struggle," he said, but he thinks the company could have become solvent again if it had more time to pay off its debts. "We asked them over and over but they said no," Watson said about Coastal Production Credit Association, to whom about \$2.5 million was owed.

Meanwhile, the bidding continued. Item No. 92, a steel propane canister, sold for \$10. Five C-clamps brought \$24.50. And four truck brakes sold for \$17.50.

Another auction of the company's property was held Saturday and two more are planned for this Friday and Saturday.

Swift's Turkey Outlook Isn't Bad, But Could Be Better

While not the greatest in the world, turkey prices are better than at this time last year, an official of a major processor said.

Dave Bray, manager of the Swift & Co. turkey processing plant about five miles west of Wallace, said the turkey price outlook seems better although the prices of pork, beef and chicken affect the price of turkeys, so there is considerable uncertainty ahead.

Stocks of frozen turkey are the lowest in 10 years, which means more turkey was consumed than was produced last year, Bray said. It also means producers are getting more money, which partially offsets the higher feed costs.

U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics indicate cold storage supplies of turkey totaled 248 million pounds Dec. 1, 1983, 46 percent less than the 460 million of Dec. 1, 1982.

"Turkey prices are not the greatest thing in the world in relation to feed prices, though," Bray added.

He said the wholesale price dropped seven cents a pound last week after holding up well following the year-end holidays.

Toms are 71 cents and hens 69 cents on the wholesale market, he said Monday of last week.

While these prices are much higher than "the low 50 cents area of this time last year," Bray added, feed prices are much higher than a year ago.

Corn laid into the feed mill in Wallace costs \$3.90 to \$4 a ton, 60 cents more than the Chicago price, because of transportation costs and other factors. "March corn futures are \$3.23 a bushel and you have to add 60 cents a bushel to that to get the corn here," Bray said.

Soybean meal, another important poultry feed item, costs \$245 to \$250 per ton, Bray said.

At the end of 1982 corn cost \$2.75 to \$3 a bushel and soybean meal \$200 a ton.

"It takes a 67- to 69-cent (per pound) market for a processor to come out at present, and it's hard to tell whether prices can be maintained," he said.

Growing out a turkey hen at present feed grain prices costs about 45 cents a pound, Bray said. The remaining 22 to 24 cents is needed by the processor for costs of dressing and marketing the birds and for covering the 20 percent loss of weight between the life and the dressed bird.

Bray questioned the federal forecast of about a 3 percent increase this year in turkey production. "I don't see where it is," he said.

The Associated Press reported last week that turkey prices had not shown their usual post-holiday January slump.

Two Face Drug Charges

Two men, charged with trafficking in marijuana, conspiracy and carrying concealed weapons, remained in Duplin County jail in Kenansville under \$100,000 bond each.

Mark Yankowick, 24, 5639 Carson Drive, Fayetteville, and Everett Angelo Smith, 29, Route 3, Cameron, were arrested in the parking lot of a Warsaw fast-food store about 9 p.m. Monday of last week.

Warsaw Police Chief R.P. Wood

said two men attempted to sell marijuana to undercover agents in the parking lot. He said Duplin County sheriff's deputies, State Bureau of Investigation officers and Warsaw police had the area under surveillance.

The warrant charged that between 100 and 2,000 pounds of marijuana was involved.

Officers found \$29,000 in \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills on the suspects, the chief said. No marijuana was found, he added.

Goshen Medical Center Administrator Resigns

By Emily Killete

The Goshen Medical Center Board of Directors accepted the resignation of the administrator at the health services facility, Jane Silver. The resignation was brought before the board January 23 in Faison.

Silver's resignation will become effective March 16. Currently Silver is working as administrator for both Goshen Medical Center in Faison and Plain View Medical Center in Greeneville under agreement of both health facilities boards of directors.

The resignation comes after Silver was named in connection with management problems at Goshen Medical Center by an audit and review by U.S. Public Health Services and presented to the directors January 10. U.S. Public Health Services is the funding agency for the medical center in Faison.

The board requested Silver begin advertisement for the administrative position at Goshen and arrange interviews for qualified applicants.

Goshen Medical Center Director Frances Parker reported the Per-

sonnel Committee would soon be forwarding a written job description for the position of administrator of the clinic to officials of the Rural Health Initiative program. The final job description will be reviewed by Carol Hawkins, attorney for Goshen Medical Center, before mailing to Rural Health Initiative.

On the recommendation of the personnel committee, the medical center directors voted to purchase a time clock. Directors agreed working hours would be set 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with 30-minute lunch.

"I would like to see the purchase of a time clock, Frances Parker said. "The personnel committee feels the time clock will help solve the problem of overtime. We would like to see employees report at opening and leave at closing time unless they are working directly with a doctor or dentist and the patients."

The medical center is currently in the process of settling a \$19,773 suit with the U.S. Department of Labor filed on behalf of nine Goshen employees for overtime wages.

Directors also approved a letter to ask for reconsideration of the 1984 Goshen Medical Center grant from Public Health Services. Funding was

deferred awaiting the directors' action on the audit and review. Grant monies were extended the medical center by Public Health Services through February until directors made a decision to continue as a federally supported health facility or become a private self-supporting unit. In order to maintain the present medical services offered by the medical center, directors unanimously approved continuing as a federally supported health facility January 18.

Goshen Medical Center has been in operation three years. The facility was designed to support two physicians and one dentist. The 50,000-square-foot building was constructed with a medical and a dental wing, according to information released during groundbreaking ceremonies held May 10, 1980. Land for the medical center was donated by the Luther Taylor family and money to construct the facility was in the form of a grant from the Rural Health Initiative program of U.S. Public Health Services. A total of \$312,000 in grant money financed the medical center building and \$80,000 to \$90,000 was used in equipping the health facility.

Agribusiness Council Installs Officers

New officers were installed at the general meeting of the Duplin Agribusiness Council Thursday night at the Farm Credit Building in Kenansville.

In the absence of the retiring president, Lois Britt, the vice president presided and installed Roy Houston, president; Robert Grady, vice-president; and Ruth Wells, secretary and treasurer. Directors are Arliss Albertson of Beulaville, Lloyd Barnwell of Route 1, Faison, Ivey Fields of Kenansville, Lewis Smith of Route 1, Mount Olive, and

Jay Thomas of Rose Hill.

Britt applauded the retiring officers and complimented them on their accomplishments. In summarizing the year's activities, she announced employing James O. (Jimmy) Johnson as fair manager for 1984. Jimmy brings to the newly-created position valuable experience acquired from his years as manager of Duplin's outdoor drama, The Liberty Cart. With the geographical location of the two productions, Johnson will be manager of both ventures.

Other accomplishments included publicity for National Ag Day, ob-

tained articles of incorporation for the fair, sponsored guidance counselors' tour, sponsored two FFA boys to their national convention, set up bookkeeping systems for the Council and for the Fair, sponsored T-shirt sales, appropriated funds for roadside signs, and last, but probably most important, sponsored the Duplin Agribusiness Fair.

The Council anticipates many more worthwhile activities for this year and urges all persons interested in agribusiness to join or renew their membership.

Duplin County Jury Returns \$45,000 Verdict In Wrongful Death Case

Donnie Devone Garner, administrator of the estate of his son, James Dean Garner, was awarded \$45,000 by a Duplin County jury in a wrongful death suit filed against Donald Keit's Tucker and Alene Hill

Wreck Victim Is 'Serious'

Elmer Aubrey Rivenbark of Wilmington was in serious condition Sunday at New Hanover Memorial Hospital where he is being treated for injuries in a wreck Saturday in Pender County.

Rivenbark, 82, was one of three people injured in a three-car collision at the intersection of U.S. 117 and N.C. 133 about 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

Shiver was headed north in a 1975 Chevrolet station wagon on U.S. 117 and turned left in front of the Rivenbark's 1980 Datsun pickup, according to State Highway Patrol Trooper E.J. Turner. The Datsun was knocked into the path of a 1982 GMC pickup being driven north on U.S. 117 by James Kenneth Blanchard of Wallace.

Stokes.

Garner had alleged negligence against both defendants, Tucker and Stokes, arising out of a collision which occurred on April 16, 1982, resulting in the death of his son.

The case was tried before Superior Court Judge Richard B. Alisbrook of Rich Square and lasted for five days. The jury only deliberated for 55 minutes before finding both defen-

dants liable for the death of James.

The plaintiff was represented by E.C. Thompson III of the law firm of Thompson and Ludlum of Warsaw. The defendant Stokes was represented by Tommy Morris of the law firm of Morris, Rochelle and Duke of Kingston, and defendant Tucker was represented by Jim Kimzey and Ray Briggs of the law firm of Kimzey, Smith and McMillan of Raleigh.

Seven Hurt In Crash

Four adults and three children were injured in a rear-end collision about 2 p.m. Sunday north of Wallace.

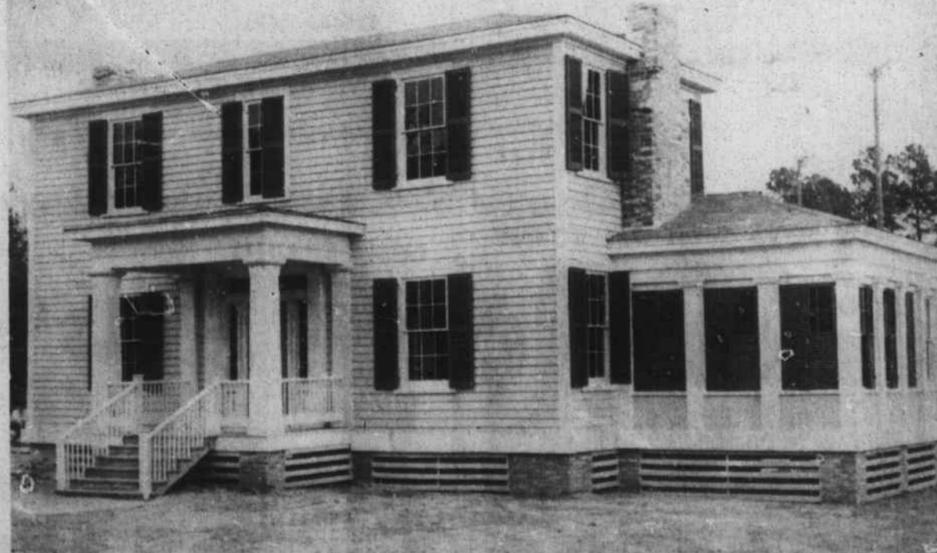
Injured were Heneretta Murray, 25, of Wallace and her 6-year-old son, Calvin, Anthony Stokes, 23 of Rose Hill, Willie Bryant, 24 of Teachey, and Essie Farrior Days, 47, Stanisha Days, 6, and Teann Mills, 8, all of Route 2, Rose Hill.

All were treated at Duplin General Hospital and released except Mrs. Murray and her son, who received additional treatment at New Hanover

Memorial Hospital before being released Sunday. Robin Days, 10, of Route 2, Rose Hill, was listed as injured but did not require hospital treatment.

Essie Days was headed north on U.S. 117 and slowed to make a left turn when her car was struck from behind by Stokes' car, also headed north on U.S. 117, according to State Highway Patrol Trooper K.A. Gardner.

Stokes was charged with failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.



Kelly Farrior House

At the future site of the Cowan Museum and the Duplin Arts Council, workmen are putting the finishing touches on the exterior of the house this week. The interior is hoped to be completed by this summer and the museum artifacts moved in. Some of the inner walls must be moved or eliminated to house the array of tools and memorabilia of the past in the Cowan collection.

The house is located near Liberty Hall and plans now are to construct or move in some out buildings such as would be found around an old plantation. The spring or summer of the year a Plantation Day (or Week) is in the making. This will bring in craftsmen to demonstrate how things were done in the early 1900's or late 1800's. All the details are not yet complete.